

Year 3 Curriculum Letter

Spring Term 2024



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope that you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas. Below is a brief overview of our plans for this term in Year 3, which I hope you find useful. Across the curriculum we will continue to ensure your children are given access to a broad & balanced curriculum this term, including a class visit to Radlett Synagogue in March.

Well-being & Growth Mind Set: We continue to focus on pupil well-being & resilience in all areas of school life and our school value for the first half of this term is courage.

English: This term we will be exploring a range of fiction, non-fiction & poetry genres using 'The World According to Humphrey', 'The Owl and the Pussy Cat', 'Charlie Small – Gorilla City', and 'Amazon River', as our focus texts. Grammar continues to be taught as part of our English lessons, & spellings work continues to focus on revising & building on the rules and strategies started in Year 2. Please continue to work with your child on their spellings at home to help them develop this vital communication skill. Comprehension skills will continue to be developed across the curriculum as well through specific comprehension sessions.

Reading: We will continue this term to use the VIPERS system (**V**ocabulary, **I**nfERENCE, **P**redict, **R**etrieval, and **S**ummarise) to support children in developing their core reading skills. Please continue to listen to your child read at least 5 times a week & to record a brief comment in their reading record. Please continue to take time to discuss the texts your child is reading to support their vocabulary & comprehension development.

Mathematics: The maths curriculum this term continues to have a very strong emphasis on fluency, which includes multiplication & division tables, which the children need to be confident in to enable them to fully access the concepts & strategies used in class throughout the term. By the end of Year 3, your child needs to be fluent in the multiplication & division facts for the **2, 3, 4, 5, 8 & 10** times tables. Please spend regular time each week focusing on these skills, reviewing times tables they have previously mastered in order to build their speed of recall, using known facts to help them learn other times tables (e.g. using the two times table to help them learn the four times table), looking at number patterns within a particular table & learning the division facts for each times table to help them develop their understanding of inverse operations. The more they can develop their times tables confidence, the easier they will find it to apply their skills & access the curriculum.

- www.timestables.co.uk – a great resource for helping to learn times tables (accounts are free)
- www.ttrockstars.com – TT RockStars (particularly good for developing speed of recall)
- www.topmarks.co.uk – Hit the Button,
- <http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/maths/timestable/interactive.htm>
- Matific: <http://bit.ly/Matific>
- Maths Frame: http://bit.ly/Maths_Frame

Topic work: This term we are focusing on developing our geographical skills. Before half term we will be exploring the topic 'Investigating our local area'; after half term we will be investigating the features of rainforests & the threats they now face.

Science: In science this term we will be continuing to develop our knowledge & enquiry skills through our topic 'How plants grow'.

Design Technology: These topics will continue to be taught as blocks. In DT this term, we will be developing our designing, making & evaluating skills by investigating mechanical systems, structures and textiles.

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PE: This term, PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Thursdays. Children will continue to develop a range of individual & team work skills. Please ensure that during the colder weather your child is wearing appropriate outdoor PE kit in school, which is in line with the school's uniform policy. For safety reasons children will not be able to wear scarves for PE, though warm hats and fingerless gloves (to ensure children can grip equipment effectively) can be worn. Long hair must be tied back & earrings either covered with tape (provided from home & applied by your child) or not worn in school on these days.

Computing: As with Design Technology, we will be taking a blocked approach to teaching computing. This term we will be focusing on typing skills and the safe use of emails, using the children's Purple Mash accounts to access resources. Children are more than welcome to use Purple Mash at home to help them develop their skills further.

French: This term we will continue to develop our vocabulary & oral work skills through the topics 'Les Fruits' (Fruits) & 'Les Instruments' (Musical Instruments).

Music: Mr Street, will be continuing to teach Year 3 music this term.

Homework: Homework will continue to be set using the system launched in the autumn term. The first piece of homework for this term will be on maths.co.uk and will be go live on Thursday 4th January, followed by tasks set on Google Classroom the following week. Alongside the weekly maths task, please continue to work on times tables, spellings and reading – these core skills are crucial to supporting your child's development.

I hope you find this information useful & I look forward to working with you this term,

Miss Holmes